

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - transmitting information indicative of a time required for an initialization of a respective one of at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices to a host device;
 - electrically combining said information from each of said at least two peripheral devices by means of a bus to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and
 - using said combined information for determining when at least one of the at least two peripheral devices is ready for operation after completion of an initialization of each of said at least two peripheral devices.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said information indicative of said time required for said initialization of said respective one of said at least two peripheral devices is an information indicative of said time required for said initialization of said respective one of said at least two peripheral devices at a maximum under regular circumstances.
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices transmits said information to said host device upon a predetermined command received from said host device.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said host device uses said common initialization timeout value for adapting a polling frequency which is to be employed for polling at least one of said at least two peripheral devices on whether said at least one peripheral device has completed its respective initialization.

5. (CANCELLED)
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices is a memory card.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said method is implemented in a system comprising a media card, a media card controller, and a bus.
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices transmits said information to said host device upon receipt of a CMD1 command from said host device.
9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices retrieves said information from an operating condition register of said at least one peripheral device, which operating condition register stores data and in addition said information.
10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein at least one of said at least two peripheral devices transmits said information in an R3 response to said host device, which R3 response includes data and in addition said information.
11. (Previously Presented) A host device comprising:
 - a bus configured to receive from at least two peripheral devices an information indicative of a time required at a respective one of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization and configured to electrically combine said information to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization;
 - an interface configured to interact with at least two peripheral devices via said bus;and

a control component configured to receive said combined information via said interface from said bus and to use said combined information for determining when at least one of the at least two peripheral devices is ready for operation after completion of an initialization of each of said at least two peripheral devices.

12. (CANCELLED)
13. (Previously Presented) A system comprising a host device and at least two peripheral devices,
 - each of said at least two peripheral devices including:
 - a first interface configured to interact with said host device;
 - a storing component configured to store information indicative of a time required at a respective peripheral device for a respective initialization; and
 - a controlling component configured to retrieve information indicative of said time required at said respective peripheral device for said respective initialization from said storing component and configured to transmit said information via said first interface to said host device;
 - and said host device including:
 - a bus configured to receive from said at least two peripheral devices said information indicative of said time required at said respective peripheral device for its respective initialization and configured to electrically combine said information to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization;
 - a second interface configured to interact with said at least two peripheral devices via said bus; and
 - a control component configured to receive said combined information via said second interface from said bus and to use said combined information for determining when at least one of the at least two peripheral devices is ready for operation after completion of an initialization of each of said at least two peripheral devices.

14. (CANCELLED)
15. (CANCELLED)
16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein transmitting information indicative of said time required for an initialization of a respective one of said at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices via a bus to said host device is performed in an open drain mode of said bus.
17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
 - a bus configured to electrically combine information indicative of a time required for an initialization of a respective one of at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and
 - a control component configured to use said combined information for determining when at least one of the at least two peripheral devices is ready for operation after completion of an initialization of each of said at least two peripheral devices.
18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
 - a control module configured to provide a predetermined command for transmission to at least one of said at least two peripheral devices.
19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
 - means for electrically combining information indicative of a time required for an initialization of a respective one of at least two peripheral devices from each of said at least two peripheral devices to produce combined information indicating a time which is required at the most by any of said at least two peripheral devices for its respective initialization; and

means for using said combined information determining when at least one of the at least two peripheral devices is ready for operation after completion of an initialization of each of said at least two peripheral devices.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

means for providing a predetermined command for transmission to at least one of said at least two peripheral devices.